

1003 D St. (Commercial Building)
(Souvenir World)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-489

HABS
DC,
WASH,
271-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 1003 D Street (Commercial Building)		HABS NO. DC-489
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Souvenir World		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 1003 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Square 348, Lot 801.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) c. 1853 (see attached)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The facade of this 19th Century building has been parged with stucco but the bracketed cornice and original window openings remain. The scale and design of the building contribute to its role as an integral element in the cohesive streetscape belonging to the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic District.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Commercial Federal		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) The wall fabric is stucco over brick. Foundations are probably of brick, and brick load-bearing walls give vertical support. Floor joists are of wood.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The building is rectangular in shape and measures 19'6" x 80', and is four stories high and three bays wide.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE 1003 D Street is three bays wide and four stories tall. It's facade surface is stucco. The first floor storefront is of wood and glass with a cloth awning projecting over the sidewalk. Third and fourth story windows have stone sills, while those of the second story have been covered by a plastic sign identifying the tenant. (see attached)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) The first floor is an open retail space with shelves along the north east and west walls. Upper floors were not available for inspection according to the owner.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Building Permits cited are as follows: (see attached)		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The structure is vacant. Sills on the third and fourth stories are seriously deteriorated, with cracks and splintering evident in all. The entablature seems only to suffer (see attached)		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE For many years before and after the turn of the century, this structure was the showroom for the Walter B. Williams auctioneering Co. The warehouse was located on the east, 1001 D St. See also DC-493 for additional information (SQUARE 348)		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds; General Assessment, Tax Records and Building Permit Room, Washington, D.C.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION W.F. Hunter, Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation		DATE February 1981

Date of Construction (cont'd)

Since construction took place prior to 1870, no permits are available for a precise date. The Tax Records indicate construction in 1853 through noting the improvement value in red ink for that year (red ink indicates new construction), as well as through the increase value of the improvements. (1844-lot \$1481 improvements \$3000; 1853-lot \$1481 improvements \$3200). Further records in the tax books give no indication of major construction on the lot other than what could be interpreted as additions to the extant structure.

Exterior Features of Note (cont'd)

The entablature consists of a molded cornice and exaggerated brackets in the bed molding regularly spaced across the facade.

Major Alterations and Additions With Dates (cont'd)

4/30/80 #1352 - new show window.
1/28/84 #978 - new show window.
10/16/96 #501 - extend show window; make minor interior repairs.
5/27/04 #1626 - change location of stair to east, lower floor in storeroom.
8/23/06 #616 - frame well hole and erect stairs from first to second floor.
8/7/12 #1175 - erect brick chimney with terra cotta flue lining.
2/29/12 #3766 - remove and replace show windows.
6/3/12 #5709 - galvanized iron reflector over showcase.
2/1/22 #5279 - replace roof over show windows.

Present Condition and Use (cont'd)

from weathering along the cymatium. The extant stucco is somewhat stained, which could indicate some moisture leakage. This leakage could be the reason the stucco was applied, if the finish is not a replacement of an original stucco. Staining and cracking on the stucco could also indicate some settling of the structure.